

Appl. No. 10/623,448
Amdt. dated February 17, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 20, 2004

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Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following comments. Claims 1 and 23 have been canceled. Claims 2, 3, 4, 9 and 17 have been amended into independent form. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 2-22 if rewritten in independent form incorporating all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants believe that the claims are allowable for at least the reasons given by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Lin et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0012149. Claims 1 and 23 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

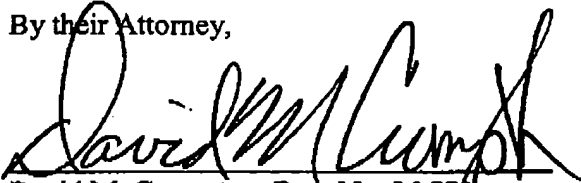
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Shigeo Kittaka et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: 2/17/05


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